United Nations A/C.3/58/L.78

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
19 November 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 117 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Recalling its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which it decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on a holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002, as well as relevant resolutions of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

Convinced of the contribution that a convention can make in this regard,

Encouraging Member States and observers to actively participate in the Ad Hoc Committee in order to present to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a draft text of a convention,

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Stressing the importance of the active participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, and their valuable contribution to the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the important contributions made so far to the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities;[1]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-second session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session, and further requests both Commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

3. *Endorses* the Ad Hoc Committee's decision to establish a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text, which would be the basis for negotiations on the draft convention by Member States and observers in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions;[2]

4. *Notes* that the Working Group will present the outcome of its work on a draft text to the Ad Hoc Committee at the third session of the Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee will start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session;

6. *Decides also* that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold, within existing resources, two sessions in 2004, each of a duration of ten working days, prior to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

7. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations in order to jointly support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

8. *Urges* that further efforts be made to ensure the active participation of non-governmental organizations in the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and based on the decision of the Ad Hoc Committee on the modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations in its work;

9. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work;

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[1] See A/58/118 and Corr.1.

[2] See A/58/118, para. 15.

11. *Encourages* Member States to continue to include in their delegations to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee persons with disabilities and/or other experts in the field;

12. *Urges* Member States, observers, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by its resolution 57/229 to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward a comprehensive report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, as well as to report on the implementation of paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the present resolution.